



Fall 1993

## **The Chironian Vol. 110 Fall 1993**

New York Medical College

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# Chironian

Volume 110, Fall 1993 The Journal of the Alumni Association of New York Medical College



FLEUR-O-SC

1993



1968



IN RECOGNITION OF THE  
TWENTY-FIFTH ANNIVERSARY  
OF THE CONFERMENT OF THE DEGREE OF  
DOCTOR OF MEDICINE UPON  
DONNA I. LOMBARDI, M.D.

The Alumni Association of New York Medical College



This is to Certify that  
DONNA I. LOMBARDI, M.D.  
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# Chironian

Volume 110 – Fall 1993

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# Changes in Our Time

## A Message from the Alumni Association President

My dear fellow physicians (not providers or vendors):

The past year has been one of significant change. On the national scene, with the election of Bill Clinton and the launching of his health care reform program we are seeing a major upheaval in the manner in which we have traditionally practiced medicine. Many physicians are scrambling to form groups or join managed care plans, while others are battling to maintain their solo practices. No matter what form the final plan takes, most of us will undoubtedly experience substantial changes in our professional lives as another layer of either "middle management" or government bureaucracy is inserted between us and our patients, adding to the already bothersome hassle related to PROs, HCFA, OSHA, HMOs, PPOs, Medicare, Medicaid, gatekeepers, and state regulations.

Let's hope that we and those who follow us will be able to continue doing what our medical school trains its graduates so well to do — care for our patients with competence and compassion.

Presently, on the College scene Fr. Harry Barrett is completing his first year as President and CEO of NYMC with the initiation of a university-wide assessment to evaluate the strengths and weaknesses of NYMC and to proceed with a long range planning process. These plans call for a new enlarged and updated learning center to be located in the Vosburgh Pavilion, which was used as a dormitory until the opening of the new student housing last summer.

This center will contain new classrooms and teaching modules, as well as a conference area, and will permit the enlargement and updating of the Alumni Computer Center, using infomatics and other new computer techniques. The alumni and alumnae will play an integral part in the implementation of these plans through the Annual Fund Appeal, details of which will be forthcoming as soon as architectural drawings are completed.

Our medical school is in the forefront of the trend to place more emphasis on primary care. We were one of 18 schools, and the only one in the metropolitan New York area, that was selected for the Robert Wood Johnson Generalist Physician Initiative Training Grant, the goal of which is to produce 50 percent of graduates in primary care. Dean Karl Adler and the faculty are working to enhance primary care education in each

of the four years of medical school and they have instituted a program that combines three years of medical school and three years of post graduate training, culminating in the production of board eligible internists.

In a change announced in October, Richard Barth, chairman, president and chief executive officer of Ciba, Ardsley, NY, has been elected chairman of the College's Board of Trustees. A member of the College's Board for three years, Mr. Barth has been named by President Clinton to the President's Council on Sustainable Development, a 24-member committee charged with creating new approaches for economic development and environmental protection.

We extend our welcome to Mr. Barth and our deep appreciation to George Cooney, now a 20-year member of the NYMC Board, who has done a wonderful job in his three years as Chairman. We thank him for his genuine interest in alumni and alumnae and want him to know that he will always be welcome in our midst.

On the "local front," as you will note elsewhere in this issue, six new governors have been elected who I'm sure will bring good new ideas to the management of our Association. Now that I have assumed the duties of the Association's presidency, this will be my last issue as Editor of **Chironian**, a position I have thoroughly enjoyed. I would like to thank Ruth Oliver (see page 11) and the Editorial Board for all their help in making these last twelve years so great. Our immediate past president, Lou Fierro, will take over as editor for upcoming issues. I know I speak for all our governors and members in expressing sincere thanks to Lou for the terrific job he has done as our President over the past four years and in wishing him well in his new role.

Because of these changes in so many areas you may have questions, comments, or suggestions, or may wish to express your point of view on a matter of particular interest. We here at the Alumni Association or **Chironian** will always like to hear from you.

Sincerely yours,

*Michael Antonelle, M.D.*

Michael A. Antonelle '62



# The Bonds of Friendship Renewed: Reunion Weekend 1993

**I**n these times of unprecedented change for the medical profession, some unchanging truths were clearly evident throughout an especially lively reunion weekend.

The festivities started with the 25-year gathering of the Class of '68 on Friday evening, May 21, continued with the banquet on Saturday evening and the luncheon party for milestone classes at the Alumni Center on Sunday, and culminated in commencement and related activities on Tuesday afternoon, May 25. Throughout, the mood was one of warmth, enthusiasm, mutual affection, and overriding appreciation for the New York Medical College experience.

Graduates of classes from 1933 to 1983 reminisced about their student days, exchanged word of one another's

current personal and professional activities, and went on to discuss the state of medicine and health care delivery today – the changes that have already occurred and those the country now awaits.

Without exception, everyone agreed that the incredibly complex questions facing those committed to the practice of medicine are very much a part of everyday life for physicians in 1993. These questions make the world of medicine vastly different from the one entered by graduates of earlier years. But it would have been difficult, if not impossible, to find anyone who would have preferred a different profession, or a different path to their medical careers, and the reunion guests expressed feelings of keen delight at being with classmates, renewing the bonds of friendship.

## The Class of '68: Joyously Reaching Their 25-Year Mark

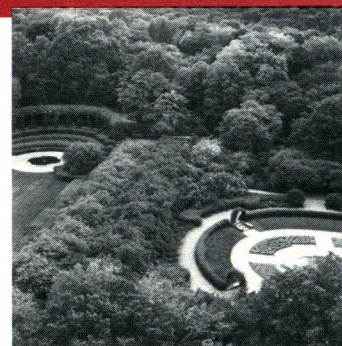
**K**en Juechter and Jim McGroarty, co-chairs of the silver anniversary reunion, spoke of the atmosphere on the roof of "Flower", now Terence Cardinal Cooke Health Care Center.

"Because of our shared experiences and the bonds forged during our medical school years," Ken said, "we were able to get started at once, everyone talking, laughing, greeting, very quickly." Jim McGroarty concurred heartily. "And, remember, we're speaking of classmates from all over the country. Most of us had not seen one another since our commencement," Jim said.

At the invitation of the chairmen, Samuel Maskin, a classmate known from medical school days as a wonderful raconteur, gave an anecdotal history of the class during dinner. Beginning with remembrance of their first day at the anatomy tables – on only their second day at school – he took them through their years together. He recalled the social and political upheaval rocking the country in their last year,



*Kenneth Juechter, co-chair of the 25-Year Class Reunion, Kay Juechter, Jane McGroarty.*



*Reunion guests saw this rooftop view of the Conservatory Gardens in Central Park.*



*Theodore Eisenstat and Carol Livoti-Topp, both '68, Richard Topp.*

*(continued on page 5)*



## 25-Year Reunion *(continued)*

unforgettable 1968. This was one "history lecture" most attentively received by those who had experienced both travail and triumph together.

Every facet of the festivities was highly successful. From the cocktail party at the start to the distribution of silver diplomas and special mementoes at the close, there was much joy as the years fell away and friends reveled once again in each other's company.



James McGroarty, co-chair of the 25-Year Class Reunion, Paul Vernaglia also '68, Michael Antonelle '62.



Frank Manopoli and Paul Sergi, both '68, Rosemarie Sergi, Ellen Manopoli.



Jeffrey Laskoff, Richard Stone, Frank Galioto, all '68.

John O'Brien '68, Patti Mellow, and Mark Mellow '68.



Ronald Lorenc '68, Barbara Lorenc, Ileana Berger, Lewis Berger and Clement Barone, both '68.



Ralph D'Angelo '68, Gina D'Angelo, Vincent D'Amico '68, Mary D'Amico.



Geraldine Daniels and Stanley Friedman, both '68.



Rebecca Fierro, Louis Fierro '60, Martha Dursi, Joseph Dursi '59.

(continued on page 6)

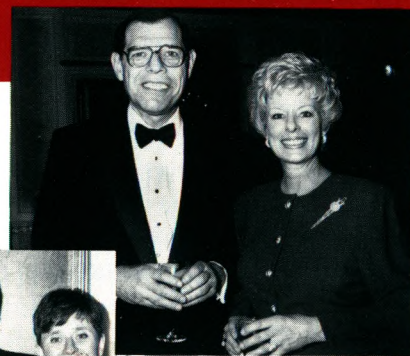


## A Lively Banquet

**T**he banquet at The Plaza in New York was a wonderfully lively event for all the participants, from those of the Class of '43, returning for their golden anniversary, to those about to receive the degrees for which they had been working during four most memorable years.

Louis Fierro '60, outgoing president of the Alumni Association, welcomed all the classes warmly and set the tone for an evening of fun, which NYMC Board Chairman George Cooney, President and CEO Harry Barrett, and Dean Karl Adler followed, by making their greetings warm and brief. Michael Antonelle, incoming president, conferred the Alumni Association's Medal of Honor on Dr. Fierro, in recognition of his contribution to both the medical school and the profession. Citations for distinguished achievement in their fields were presented to Neil A. Kurtzman '61, Walter F. Pizzi '58, and Ruth N. Oliver, executive editor of **Chironian**. (See Newsmakers.)

The music was most conducive to dancing of every pleasant description as colleagues of all years remembered and reveled in their homecoming.



Neil Kurtzman '61 and his wife, Sandra Sabatini, M.D., Ph.D. Dr. Kurtzman was cited for outstanding academic achievement and contributions to nephrology.



David Paige '64, Tara Paige and Ross Switkes, both '93, Nancy Paige.

Karl Adler, M.D., NYMC dean and vice president for medical affairs, George Cooney, chairman of NYMC's board of trustees, Rebecca Fierro, Louis Fierro '60.



Blanche Willner, Albert Willner '43, Benjamin Kerr '43, and Evelyn Kerr.



(Standing) Herbert Conner '43, Mabel Conner, James Walker, John Sheehy '75, Carlo Annese '79; (Seated) Marie Sheehy, Adelaide Scanlon Sheehy '43, Pat Sheehy, Eileen Sheehy '79.



James McNulty '43, Ann Blyth McNulty, George Campion '43, Dorothea Campion.



(Seated) Frank Pizzi '69, Susan Pizzi, Richard Levere, M.D., NYMC Chairman of Medicine, Diane Levere. (Standing) Joseph Dursi '59, Martha Dursi, Walter Pizzi '58, Leonard Newman '70, NYMC chairman of pediatrics, Randi Newman, Joseph Masdeu, M.D., NYMC chairman of neurology.

(continued on page 7)



## Banquet (continued)

**Relaxing at last, physicians-to-be enjoy dining, wining, dancing, in celebration of a new beginning.**



(Seated) Stephen Greco, Michele Mahn (Greco) '93, Victoria Staiman '93, Steven Gold '93; (Standing) Carol Travers, John Travers '93, Lance Bruck and Gregory Bell, both '93.



Walter Pizzi '58 and Lillian Pizzi. Dr. Pizzi was cited for his outstanding medical services to the community and contribution to medical education.



Daryl Coupet, Nadege Coupet '93, Frank Brown, Holly Roberts '93, Cynthis Brown '93, Leon Lewis '93, Natalie Valdez '93, Curtis Hardy '93.



There were dance styles for everyone as banqueters tripped the light fantastic throughout the evening.

## Golden Graduates

**T**wo classes graduated in 1943, one in March, one in December, because of the needs for acceleration during the years of World War II. The graduates of those two classes were full and vital participants in the banquet and the special events planned for their golden jubilee. Adelaide Scanlon Sheehy chaired their reunions, assisted by a committee comprising Samuel Cytryn, Louis Iandoli, Adeline Martin, Wallace McCaffrey, Norman Stevens and Albert Willner. A highlight of the golden anniversary celebrations was the initiation by Albert Willner of a challenge grant of \$25,000 to be matched by the cumulative gifts of classmates. We are pleased to report that as **Chironian** went to press the total of gifts received to date was within dollars of the goal. It should be noted that there is still time to contribute and that the names of donors will be inscribed on a special commemorative plaque.



Members of the Class of December '43 attending the reunion were: (Back Row) John Fox, Wallace McCaffrey, Sidney Zuckerman, James McNulty, Samuel Cytryn, Herbert Conner, Raymond Reilly, Elias Stoller, Joseph Brisbane, Martin Ackerman, Donald Stevens, Jeane Smith, Harry Wilbur, Louis Iandoli, Selden Williams, Harry Kosovsky. (Front Row) John Walsh, Alfred Lowy, Adeline Martin, Francis Lopertido, Sheldon Kaftan, Adelaide Sheehy, Walter Lehmann, Bernard Schuman.



Members of the Class of March '43 at the reunion, with Alumni Association President Louis Fierro '62, were: (Back Row) Mortimer Mellicker, Morris Bass, George Campion, Ernest Gentile, Salvatore Dalio, Joseph Manganaro, Ciro Tarta, Peter Renda, Benjamin Kerr. (Front Row) Harold Gordon, Albert Willner, Ruth Lewis-Kartus, Beatrice DiMarco, Anthony Leuzzi. Dr. Fierro is seated between Drs. DiMarco and Leuzzi.

(continued on page 8)



## Milestone Reunions: An Increasingly Popular "Tradition"

**W**hen does an event become a tradition? There is no definitive answer to that question but it is clear that the NYMC milestone reunions are fast qualifying as traditional.

The luncheon at the Alumni Center on Sunday, May 23, was in many happy ways a family affair. As you enjoy the photos, note the presence, in the recent class years, of several quite small guests. Behold the next generation of NYMC alumni and alumnae. ■



Members of the Class of '73 and their guests" Lennart Belok, Amy Kellman, Scott Kellman, Steven Reiner, David Handwerker, Kenneth Mitchell, Joseph Cleary, Denise O'Brien, Shelly and Harvery Zara. Other class members present for the reunion but regrettably not for the "photo op" were Albert De Fabritus, Steven Frank, Frank Loffredo, Rosario Romano, Paul and Jo Kremer Sadowitz.



Members of the Class of '33 and their guests: (seated) Charlotte Yudell, Nathan Goldberg, Carmy Wurtman (Jack Fishman's grandson), Jack Fishman; (standing) Patricia Eidinoff, Harold Eidinoff, Rosella Stivala, George Stivala, Nancy and Caesar Volpe.



Members of the Class of '53 and a student with President Barrett: (Seated) Julius Bosco, Solly Scheiner, Stephen Borstelmann, NYMC President Harry C. Barrett; (standing) Jack Brook, William Ryan, John Viscardi, Lloyd Bergner, Robert Brennan, Martin Stahl. Stephen, a member of the Class of '96, was a campus tour guide.



Members of the Class of March '43 and guests: Morris Bass, Marilyn Bass, Dorothea Campion, George Campion, Ciro Tarta, Regina Tarta, Josephine Manganaro, Rosalyn I. Manganaro, Peter Renda, Connie Renda, Albert Willner, Blanche Willner, Beatrice DiMarco.



Members of the Class of December '43 and guests: Joseph Brisbane, Sylvia Brisbane, Walter Lehmann, Raymond Reilly, Josephine Reilly, Herbert Conner, Mabel Conner, Selden Williams, Louise Williams, Adelaide Scanlon Sheehy, Samuel Cytryn, John Fox, Adeline Martin, Louis Iandoli, Mary Ann Iandoli, Harry Wilbur.



Members of the Class of '83 and family members: Alan Ditchek, M.D.; Amy Batterman (Ditchek) with daughter Rebecca; Vicki Camerino, M.D., wife of John Ettenson; John Ettenson; Christine Koropeccky (Kleeman); Barry Kleeman; Barbara Tighe-Edwards; Kenneth Gray, Miriam David (Gray), Joan Liman, Evelyn Faber, Melanie Liman, Joan's daughter; Andrew Faber; Kathy Dunn; Michael Dunn; Jeffrey Broder; Susan Klein, Paul Figura, Ilona Figura's husband; Ilona, with their daughter and son; and Donna Esposito.



# NEWSMAKERS

## Four Honored at Alumni Banquet

### Medal of Honor to Louis E. Fierro '60— Alumni Association President 1989-1993



Presenting the Alumni Medal of Honor and citation to Louis Fierro '60, outgoing president of the Association, were Mike Antonelle '62, incoming president, and Joseph Dursi, '59, chairman of special events.

Ask Louis Fierro what is his most important legacy to the Alumni Association as its president for the last four years. His answer is immediate and unequivocal: "As president, I set out to strengthen the ties that bind graduates to the college and to forge strong links between graduates and current students.

Expanding on his views for *Chironian*, Lou says, "As I told the Class of '93 on many occasions,

including their commencement, we came in together four years ago, they as students, I as president of their Alumni Association. And I wanted from the beginning of my term to make sure that all our students—as well as all our graduates—benefit from the collective knowledge and experience of those who preceded them. Because of my personal history with this medical school, I feel strongly about what membership in this organization should mean throughout a physician's life. Let me explain.

"My family has been connected to New York Medical College for 65 years, half the life of the College. And for as far back as I can remember, I knew I would become a doctor. Two of my uncles were graduates. Eugene Fierro '28 was one of the first colorectal surgeons in New York City, and Frank Fierro '33 was chairman of anesthesiology for 12 years and president of the Alumni Association from 1962 to 1965. They taught me to respect the medical profession.

"I suppose you might say that I look at the Alumni Association as an extended family for all its members and especially as a surrogate parent to the students. I've felt keenly that a strong bonding of experienced graduates with students and young physicians is important because of the advantage I had as a student and intern.

"In the late 1950s, fourth-year students at NYMC were externs at Metropolitan and Flower hospitals. We were housed and fed at those institutions and had an intensive experience under the guidance of residents and teaching faculty. We felt at the time we were being given a heavy load of work, but the experience we gained served us very well in many ways, not the least of which was in enabling us to make intelligent decisions about the specialty we would choose.

"With the changes that have come about in the medical education process, some of which were necessary and advantageous, today's students are being asked to make lifelong decisions before they have discovered all the options open to

them. These decisions must be *informed* choices, and this is a gap graduates can help to fill."

Lou Fierro earned his B.A. degree from Syracuse University. After graduating from NYMC, he started his postgraduate training at Lenox Hill Hospital, which offered the rotating internship he wanted. Completing that year, he returned to the College for a two-year residency in anesthesiology at NYMC-Metropolitan.

In 1963 he was invited to join the faculty of NYMC and the staff of Flower and Fifth Avenue Hospitals, where he spent ten years, the last five as chief of the anesthesiology service. In 1974 he accepted appointment as director of anesthesiology at Lenox Hill and now serves additionally as director of respiratory therapy and medical director of the Hospital's ambulatory surgery center. His other appointments include associate attending at Westchester County Medical Center and associate visiting attending at Metropolitan.

"Anesthesia appealed to me," Dr. Fierro says, "because it offered the opportunity to apply clinical pharmacology in treating a broad spectrum of patients, some with severe medical problems, others with severe surgical or intrapartum conditions. Further, it involved the management of patients with acute and chronic pain and those with respiratory distress. And the practice of anesthesiology has changed in enormously exciting ways.

"One of the most dramatic changes has been the advance in techniques of monitoring patients from that of simply taking blood pressure and keeping your finger on the patient's pulse to what we do now with intravascular monitoring of the physiologic changes that occur from moment to moment during a procedure. Further, to participate as an anesthesiologist in the evolution of major vascular procedures in children and coronary surgery for the management of coronary artery disease was deeply satisfying.

"Another historic advance I've been part of is the fine-tuning of those techniques of anesthesia which, along with new pharmacology, have made ambulatory surgery possible for an ever-increasing number of procedures. At Lenox Hill we have moved forward with each new development, and in 1983 the hospital opened its center for ambulatory surgery. We anticipate that by the year 2000 up to 65 percent of all surgery will be performed on an ambulatory basis."

In addition to his pivotal directorships at Lenox Hill, Dr. Fierro is vice president of the hospital's medical board and has chaired many committees including by-laws, codes, accreditation, and ethics. His committee service for NYMC has included student admissions and the search for the dean, president, and chair of pediatrics.

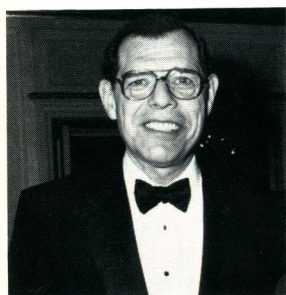
A fellow of the American College of Anesthesiologists and Chest Physicians, he is a graduate member of AOA and has been honored by the American Committee for Italian Immigration with their medical and health services award and by the Haitian Biomedical Foundation, which he has chaired.

During the 19 years since Lou Fierro was elected to the Alumni Association's Board of Governors, colleagues on the



board and in the membership at large have viewed with continually growing respect his dedicated work for the Medical College and the Association. Those who have met him and his wife, Rebecca Fierro, a graduate of Lenox Hill Hospital School of Nursing, at alumni/ae gatherings in the past four years, are aware of the warm and generous spirit of this couple, which has been transmitted to their children—Catherine, who holds a master's degree in social work and is director of admitting and discharge planning at an adolescent drug rehabilitation center; Louis, who is a first-year student of chiropractic medicine; and Caroline, a third-year student at New York Medical College.

In the citation accompanying the Medal of Honor presented to Lou Fierro, his colleagues capture in words the qualities that have vastly benefitted the Association: "Your unsurpassed ethics and integrity, your dedicated and forward-looking leadership ... the high personal and professional standards that govern the conduct of your life and your practice of anesthesiology have made you a superb role model and have brought honor to your profession, your colleagues, and your medical alma mater."



*Neil Kurtzman '61, who was cited for his distinguished academic achievement.*

### **Neil A. Kurtzman '61— Product of Nephrology's Golden Age**

Neil Kurtzman '61, the current president of the National Kidney Foundation, speaks of his career in nephrology enthusiastically. Clearly he loves his work, every aspect of it—research, for which his laboratory has won international recognition, teaching, writing, administration, and the care of patients. "Oh, yes," he says with a smile, "I still know

how to be a doctor, how to care for patients."

Dr. Kurtzman's exuberance is contagious. Over the years it has surely caught on with research teams, residents and students. His laboratory is recognized as one of the best in the world studying urinary acidification, students have honored him five times for excellence in teaching, and he has held increasingly prestigious posts.

Since 1985 Dr. Kurtzman has been Arnett Professor of Medicine and Chairman of the Department of Internal Medicine at Texas Tech University Health Sciences Center in Lubbock, as well as professor of physiology and chief of nephrology.

"This is a long way from Brooklyn, where I was born, but the odyssey has worked out well," Dr. Kurtzman says. After receiving a B.A. with honors from Williams College and the M.D. from NYMC, he interned at Robert Packer Hospital in Pennsylvania and went on to residencies in internal medicine at Ohio State University Hospital in Columbus and William Beaumont General Hospital in El Paso.

"I took part of my residency and the nephrology fellowship that followed while I was in military service. I was a most unlikely soldier, but the Army was very good to me. The spark that kindled my interest in nephrology came during the Army period through meeting and working with two of the all-time giants of the specialty, Dr. Donald Seldin and Dr. Floyd Rector, the two smartest men I've ever met."

"Dr. Seldin was a consultant to the Army and used to come to El Paso once a month. When he offered me a fellowship I didn't realize that working with him would be the best place to

be, but it surely was. The Army sponsored my fellowship at Southwestern in Dallas and then made me chief of the kidney unit at Brooke Army Medical Center where I started a fellowship program. No one told me I couldn't so I just did it, and it worked out well. I was also the chief of the metabolic branch at the Burn Center, where I first started to study urinary acidification.

"I got interested in nephrology 30 years ago. Before that time (until the development of the Scribner shunt) there wasn't much that could be done for kidney patients, but when dialysis became possible much progress lay ahead. It was the opening of a golden age of nephrology and I was lucky to be there." In 1972 when Neil Kurtzman received his Army discharge as a Lt. Colonel, the University of Illinois was seeking a Seldin-trained physician for a dual professorship and appointed him professor of medicine in the College of Medicine and professor of physiology in the Graduate College. He was also named chief of the section of nephrology at the University of Illinois Hospital. He remained at Illinois until accepting his present posts.

When talk with Dr. Kurtzman turns to his other interests there is again the sense of enjoyment, especially when the subject is his particular love—music. "I've been listening to music, reading about music, learning as much as I can for forty years," he says. "I heard my first opera at the old City Center in New York from the last row in the highest balcony. It was *La Traviata* with Eva Likova. My first concert was with Dmitri Mitropoulos conducting Bruckner with the New York Philharmonic, and very often I stood through performances at the Metropolitan Opera when I should have been studying anatomy. Some people want a Mercedes. My Mercedes is a 1200 watt stereo system. I'm on the Board of the Lubbock Symphony and feel lucky to have both music and medicine in my life."

Neil Kurtzman and his wife, Sandra Sabatini, Ph.D., M.D., live in Lubbock. Dr. Sabatini, one of the fellows who trained with Dr. Kurtzman, is now chairman of the Department of Physiology at Texas Tech, one of only two women to chair a physiology department in an American medical school. Dr. Kurtzman has four adult children, who came to New York from as far away as Paris, to attend the banquet where he was honored for his "principles and commitment to excellence" and his "manifold contributions in charting new paths to medical knowledge."



*Walter Pizzi, '58, who was cited for outstanding medical services to the community.*

### **Walter F. Pizzi '58— Agent of Historic Changes**

Walter Pizzi, '58, is acclaimed as a remarkably forward-looking, successful planner and overseer of emergency medical services for an area covering 3,000,000 people. Chairman of the Board of the Regional Emergency Medical Services Council of New York since its inception in 1973, and Chief of the American College of Surgeons Region II Committee on Trauma during the past four years, Dr. Pizzi has effected changes unique in the history of these services.

In his stewardship over the past 20 years, Dr. Pizzi has led the regional medical services system from disarray to distinction. He and his team transformed both the quality and



accessibility of emergency care, setting appropriate state-of-the-art treatment as its standard.

Dr. Pizzi has been complimented and congratulated frequently on his work heading up EMS. It has been a noteworthy accomplishment and, being human, he enjoys the responses to his work. However, no compliment pleases him more than one he received in a letter last summer from a resident who had done a rotation in surgery at Catholic Medical Center of Brooklyn and Queens, one of the largest hospital consortia in the United States, where Dr. Pizzi chairs the Department of Surgery, practices, and teaches. The young man's letter described his learning experience in glowing terms, writing that it was the most productive period of his year's training. "This kind of reaction makes all our efforts in teaching worthwhile. It validates our commitment and our work to train the finest physicians that we can help produce." Dr. Pizzi said.

Dr. Pizzi received his A.B. degree from Cornell University in 1954; upon earning his M.D. in 1958, he began a relationship with Cornell that has continued to this day, undertaking seven years of postgraduate training with the Second Surgical (Cornell) Division at Bellevue Hospital. His residencies included general, thoracic, and orthopaedic surgery; urology, and neurosurgery. He is now professor of clinical surgery at Cornell and an attending surgeon at New York Hospital/Cornell Medical Center.

Board certified in surgery in 1966, he is a founding member of the American Trauma Society and is on the board of directors of the society's New York State division. He is a fellow of both the American College of Surgeons and the American Association for the Surgery of Trauma.

Dr. Pizzi and his wife, Lillian, have four children. Two other members of the Pizzi family are NYMC alumni: his uncle **Mario Pizzi '37** is now retired; his brother **Frank Pizzi '69** is a neurosurgeon and chairs the Alumni Association's Central New Jersey Chapter.

Walter Pizzi's award notes that he brought emergency medical care "into the modern era with life-saving results," and through teaching is passing on his "extraordinary knowledge of the full spectrum of surgery, head-to-toe, richly enhancing the boundaries of medical education."



Ruth Oliver, who was cited for distinguished service as executive editor of **Chironian**, receiving the award from Louis E. Fierro.

husband, used to say whenever the telephone rang bringing news of New York Medical College or its graduates, "There goes my fire horse to the fire."

Ruth Oliver has been associated with **Chironian**, for 26 years, first as NYMC's director of public affairs from 1967 to 1979 and then as the journal's executive editor and writer.

Before coming to the College, she held public relations posts in two of New York's major cultural institutions. She was assistant director of public relations of the New York Public Library in 1948 during the library's centennial celebration. From 1951 to 1967 she headed public relations at the American Museum of Natural History, where she and her staff reported on the museum's scientific and educational programs and planned media coverage and opening ceremonies for many of its world-famous exhibition halls. She also escorted members of the press on flights above the clouds to view solar eclipses with astronomers from the museum's Hayden Planetarium.

In 1967, when Ruth joined the NYMC staff, the College administration was undergoing a major transition, and a corporate public relations firm had been engaged to develop an organizational plan. "The firm recommended me for the directorship of public affairs," she recalls. "The College search committee was headed by Jackson E. Spears, then acting president and included Larry Slobody, chair of pediatrics, who became president soon after I started. It was a challenging time, and I learned then—and at other times of stress and change for the College—how much the steadfast support of caring alumni and alumnae has meant in sustaining their medical alma mater. I've been enormously impressed by their loyalty and enthusiasm in periods of both adversity and success. I've also learned through my own research and reporting how many top-notch doctors are NYMC graduates."

Under Ruth Oliver's direction, the public affairs department, located in the NYMC-FFAH complex at 106th Street in Manhattan, was responsible for publicity and a variety of publications. These included, in addition to **Chironian**, the College's *Academic Bulletin*, *Admissions Bulletin*, and *Annual Report*, the *Faculty-Student Newswire*; *Intercom*, a bimonthly newsletter for all personnel of the College and Flower and Metropolitan hospitals; and many patient information booklets. In 1979, Ruth resigned from the College staff in order to spend more time with her husband, who was ill, but she continued with **Chironian**.

"Sy Schluskel was then Alumni Association president, followed by Joe Dursi, Rita Girolamo, Paul Tartell, and, for the last four years, Lou Fierro," Ruth says. "They have all been wonderful to work with. Saul Schwartz was **Chironian** editor when I came to the College and was always very helpful to me. And for 12 years I've had a great experience working with Mike Antonelle in his role as editor. It's been challenging, interesting, rewarding, and fun."

A graduate of Hunter College, Ruth earned her M.A. degree in philosophy and the social sciences from Columbia University in 1964. Her husband the noted zoologist, James A. Oliver, died in 1981. Ruth speaks warmly of her step-family, consisting of her husband's daughter, son, and three grandchildren.

The citation accompanying Ruth Oliver's award referred to her "dedication, loyalty, hard work and high standards of journalism" and noted, "Her writings have touched the lives of many people in the New York Medical College family." Reflecting on the award, Ruth comments, "These people and the experience of working with them have greatly enriched my life. ■"

### Ruth N. Oliver— Dedicated Journalist

*The following article was written by one of Ruth Oliver's long-time colleagues.*

At age 10, Ruth Oliver was elected editor of her school newspaper, and she has been writing and editing ever since. Everyone who has been the subject of a **Chironian** article knows that this enterprising journalist always pursues a story with zestful enthusiasm. As the late Jim Oliver, her genial



# A Conversation With The New President

Michael A. Antonelle '62, better known to friends and colleagues as "Mike," was elected to the Alumni Association's Board of Governors in 1981. Now, after serving successively in the offices of archivist, secretary, treasurer, vice president and president-elect, Mike has been elected president of the Alumni Association. He assumed that post on July 1, 1993. **Chironian** readers know that Mike has also held the additional post of editor of this journal ever since joining the Board of Governors. As he points out in his President's Message on page 3, he is signing off as editor with this issue and has tapped Louis E. Fierro '60, immediate past president, for the editorship. An interview with Dr. Antonelle follows:

**Chironian:** As Editor of **Chironian** for the past 12 years you know that when the term begins we interview the new incumbent in order to familiarize the membership with the person now heading the Association. As is customary, we start with the vital statistics. Where were you born, brought up, educated? What path did you take to your medical career? Who makes up the Michael Antonelle family today?

**MAA:** I was born in Brooklyn, New York, and lived there until age four when my family moved to Great Neck, Long Island, which at that time was still considered "the country." After attending parochial grammar school in Great Neck, I attended St. Mary's High School in the neighboring town of Manhasset. With an early interest in dentistry, I was advised by my family dentist to enter the pre-dental program at NYU's Washington Square College, where I earned my B.A. While in that program I met Kathy Laughlin, a pre-med student, with whom I will soon celebrate my 35th wedding anniversary.

Kathy recognized before I did that dentistry would not hold enough interest for me. I realized this was true and switched to pre-med at the end of my junior year. On the other hand Kathy decided to switch to physical therapy in a March of Dimes Scholarship Program and was a therapist at Metropolitan and later, until the children came along, the chief physical therapist at Flower. Four years ago she decided to go back to work and chose a related field, selling durable medical equipment.

We're fortunate that all four of our children are fine, and Kathy deserves a lot of the credit for that. I was very busy



From left: Michael Antonelle and his wife, Trish; Helen, Kathy, Michael A. Antonelle '62, and Jean Antonelle. Robert Antonelle '89 and his wife, Patty, were out of town when this picture was taken.

as a med student, intern, and resident during their early years. After college each took off on a different path. Jean manages a candle shop and assists in my office part time. Michael is married and has his own home restoration firm. Robert, married and about to become a father for the second time, is an NYMC alumnus, Class of '89. He is in his second year of a

GI fellowship at Westchester County Medical Center under Dr. William Rosenthal, one of my former professors. Helen is a commercial photographer in the Washington, D.C. area.

**Chironian:** We've fast forwarded through several decades. Now let's rewind to the years between your graduation from NYMC and the present.

**MAA:** They were lively years. With my M.D. degree in hand I interned at New Rochelle Hospital for one year and then was drafted into the Navy. While awaiting orders I hung up my shingle as the camp doctor at Camp Wauwepex, a Boy Scout camp on eastern Long Island, where I had worked summers for the previous ten years. I had been active in Scouting all through high school, college and med school, and continued that association during the navy and residency period and beyond. I received the Vigil Honor on a rainy night during my senior year at NYMC, and was awarded the Silver Beaver some 20 years later.

My orders finally caught up with me in the middle of August and with two days' notice we packed up our three children and headed for the Naval Propellant Plant in Indian Head, Maryland, just south of the Capitol district. We had some interesting experiences there. During my second year, for example, because of leave and illness, I



was suddenly told that for the next 24 hours I was in command of the entire base, with its complement of 700 military personnel, as well as 2800 civilians who worked in the nitroglycerine and rocket fuel plant. I shudder to think what could have happened in that period, but fortunately for all concerned the time passed without incident.

Toward the end of my naval service, there was one other incident which seems amazing now, but wasn't at the time. Having just a small dispensary on base, all deliveries were done at the major military hospitals in the D.C. area. I had not delivered a baby in two years when suddenly, at three o'clock one morning, I had to ride in the ambulance with a woman who was very close to delivery. She then delivered in the back of the ambulance – and we just had one flashlight. We arrived at the hospital quite a picture. I had on chinos and a red windbreaker over my pajamas and was wearing moccasins. The nurse asked "Are you the father?" "No, I'm the doctor." Two nights later with Kathy about to deliver our fourth child, I went flying into the labor and delivery suite with the same outfit on calling out to the same nurses, "Hurry, hurry, and this time I *am* the father."

Following my discharge in 1965 I took a two-year residency in medicine at Metropolitan, and it was during the first year, working with two GI residents, my classmate, Eugene Harbilas, and David Blackman '58, that I became interested in gastroenterology. After completing the residency, I took a NIAMD PHS trainee fellowship under George B. Jerzy Glass at NYMC and spent three months of that period in England studying small bowel disease. I then went into practice with Dr. David Katz in Mount Vernon, NY. In 1973, I was appointed to the consulting staff at St. Agnes Hospital in White Plains, and two years later I opened my present office in the medical building connected to St. Agnes. I left the Mount Vernon practice in 1982.

I am now chief of the gastroenterology section of St. Agnes for a second round. The first round ran from 1974 to 1985, and I had to step down for six years because of by-law constraints. In the hiatus I served as president of the medical staff for four years. I am also the chief of the GI section at the Community Hospital of Dobbs Ferry and was formerly a consultant at the VA Hospital in Montrose. Through the years I have held an appointment at NYMC as assistant clinical professor of medicine.

**Chironian:** *You have some important "firsts" to your credit, having pioneered with a number of procedures. What were some of them?*

**MAA:** Dr. Glass, Dr. Harbilas and I worked together to develop the differential lead, a unique method of measuring esophageal motility which, due to changing technology, fell by the wayside. Using what would now be considered

"primitive" equipment, the late Harry Barowsky, alumnus of our Class of '31 and I were among the first to show movies of gastric polyp biopsies in 1969. In 1968, I worked with Dr. Katz and the late Dr. Peter Douvres making a movie on diagnostic peritoneoscopy (now laparoscopy) never dreaming of the multiple procedures being done today with that instrumentation.

When the colonoscope was first introduced in the early '70's, my experience with Dr. Barowsky led to my being put in charge of training the residents in its use. In those early days we had to make our own snares for polypectomy and I was among the first to do outpatient polypectomies and in-office gastroscopy. I was also a pioneer in ERCP, traveling to various hospitals in Westchester, the Bronx, and Queens to do this procedure.

**Chironian:** *What are some of the ways in which your practice has changed?*

**MAA:** We see many more patients in their 80s and 90s for their five-year colon follow-up and find them mentally alert and still active, playing golf, cards, traveling to see their great-grandchildren. At the other end of the scale, I am also seeing my children's friends and contemporaries with ulcers, colitis, and other GI problems. And speaking of ulcers, one of the biggest changes is in their treatment, which often used to require surgery, but which we now treat medically with great success.

**Chironian:** *You have a reputation, which appears well deserved, as one who is skilled at designing, fixing, restoring, and building everything from dry walls to kitchens to boats. How do you view those talents?*

**MAA:** I thoroughly enjoy creating new spaces or changing existing ones, indoors or out. We bought an old wooden boat 11 years ago, and I gutted it and rebuilt the interior. That was hard work but very enjoyable. I also enjoy working on delicate projects such as customizing fishing rods and on large projects such as the rock garden and stone walls around our house, and I enjoy seeing the results even more.

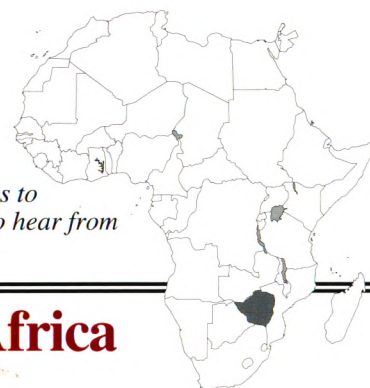
**Chironian:** *We also hear that you are an extraordinarily intuitive physician, with very keen diagnostic abilities, as well as being enormously conscientious and caring about your patients. How do you see yourself?*

**MAA:** I'm complimented by that description, as anyone would be. How do I see myself? I see medicine as a profession that challenges me every day to use the skills and knowledge I've been given to the absolute best of my abilities. Nothing is more gratifying than helping a sick person become better, or preferably, well, and, as I said earlier, it is a very good feeling to greet a patient who has come for a checkup, smiling, in the ninth decade of life. ■



# Alumni/ae Notebook

**Chironian's** series of first-person articles by NYMC graduates, reporting on noteworthy professional experiences at home or abroad, continues below. If you would like to participate, please address inquiries summarizing the nature of the experience and the availability of pictures to Editor, **Chironian**, Alumni Center, New York Medical College, Valhalla, NY 10595. We hope to hear from you and will respond promptly.



## Medical Sojourn in Southern Africa

by Yolandra Johnson '90

Yolandra Johnson '90, currently a gastroenterology fellow at the University of Chicago Hospital, spent part of last winter in southern Africa. She recorded these reflections for **Chironian** on June 16, 1993.

**F**our months ago today I was in Harare, the capital of Zimbabwe, taking an eight-week elective block in internal medicine as part of my residency at Yale-New Haven Hospital. Today my apartment in Connecticut is a mass of cartons and boxes as I get ready to leave it after three years. The next trip, very soon now, will take me to the American midwest where, on July 1, I'll start a gastroenterology fellowship at the University of Chicago Hospital. My three years at Yale have been wonderful, and the elective in Zimbabwe was unique. I saw so much and learned so much in Africa I scarcely know how to begin telling about it.

I went to Zimbabwe with a second-year resident whom I met at Yale, Giselle Corbie-Smith, who is also a young African-American woman. We shared an apartment and traveled together on weekends and on safari during a break in our program.

We arrived in Harare on the morning of January 12 and were met at the airport by a professor at the University of Zimbabwe Medical School who took us to the apartment reserved for us. We spent the first day sleeping! When later that week we began to explore the city in our time off, we found that Harare is very cosmopolitan, with many of the same features as other large cities: high-rise buildings, shops, restaurants, some theaters—and congestion. You don't see many homeless people in the streets. Unfortunately, you do see children—who quite obviously belong in school—hanging out in parking areas waiting to ask you for money to watch your car.

For our elective we were based at Parirenyatwa Hospital, the teaching hospital of the University of Zimbabwe named for the first Zimbabwean physician.

Considered medical consultants, we worked on a medical ward team of interns and residents and were scheduled for



Yolandra Johnson '90, second from right, and the residents and staff she worked with at Parirenyatwa Hospital in Harare.

regular workdays with rounds each morning. Once a week we were on call, doing what the hospital staff refer to as casualty work in the emergency room. When the medical students returned from vacation on February 1, and daily lectures and conferences resumed, we were frequently asked for our opinions.

The physicians we worked with were very interested in our input and quickly made us feel part of the team. Best of all, it was a mutually beneficial

exchange. Doctors in Zimbabwe do not have all the sophisticated tests we have: to get a CAT scan was almost impossible. But they were interested in learning about the latest techniques available in the U.S. and in return gave us extremely helpful pointers on physical examination. We especially learned from these colleagues during clinical rounds because, where we have all sorts of tests to rely on, they must rely primarily on their eyes and ears. We've certainly been *taught* to do that in medical school, but in hospitals at home, where we have state-of-the-art technology, you may not listen quite so carefully to a heart murmur, for example, knowing you'll soon have the echocardiogram results to corroborate or revise your diagnosis.

We also broadened our knowledge by seeing conditions we don't often see here, such as endstage rheumatic heart disease. In the U.S. the strep throat that can be a killer is usually treated before it gets to that point, and we have valve replacements as part of our treatment options. Since our Zimbabwe team just didn't have the same options, we saw many patients in the final stages of the disease.

One situation very new to us was the attitude of many of the families of patients with endstage disease. They would give the hospital four or five days, or perhaps a week. If the condition didn't improve within that time, they would take the patient to a spiritual healer in their community.

In the treatment of AIDS patients we again saw a



predominance of endstage disease. We very infrequently saw patients with early HIV. Unless a patient is wealthy enough to pay for AZT, physicians in Zimbabwe do not prescribe it, and patients with HIV are simply told the diagnosis, after which they go home to their families to await the complications that may or may not bring them back to the hospital. As a consequence we mainly saw endstage AIDS. And that was strikingly dramatic. What was new to us was the enormous number of cases of Kaposi's Sarcoma, which we who had trained on the East Coast at home had not seen before. Residents training in San Francisco have seen it because it is found primarily in homosexual men. Parirenyatwa Hospital has a clinic for Kaposi's Sarcoma patients, where we were able to spend time. The doctors there are writing research protocols, and we had the opportunity to observe things we would never have seen here.

In Zimbabwe, many patients are hospitalized with meningitis, since bacterial meningitis is endemic in the region, a meningitis belt. The rural areas outside the city are also in a malaria belt, and people from Harare, after being away, perhaps visiting their families, would come to the hospital with high fever and jaundice. In these instances all the appropriate drugs are available, and malaria and meningitis can be treated very successfully.

Parirenyatwa Hospital is a major teaching facility with medical students, residents, and faculty from many different countries. Since it is a tertiary referral center, patients travel many miles and take many days to get there. On any given day, lines of patients wrap around the halls in the emergency or casualty area. There are other district hospitals in the outlying areas—similar to some community hospitals here—but most do not offer all the treatments available at the university hospital.

Other similarities and differences from our hospitals in the U.S. are worth noting. For example, Giselle and I had no beepers at any time. Only the admitting resident on call had one, in contrast to the U.S. where no resident can take a step without a beeper going off.

As is so often the case here, the nurses were overworked, but they were very helpful to us. Because they seldom see African-Americans—especially African-American women—they were also curious about why we were there. We dressed more like Europeans, and yet we obviously looked a lot like them, and they had many questions for us. It was amazing how many similarities we shared with them.

On our days off we enjoyed a variety of experiences, including a visit with the family of a resident we had become friends with. We were served a typically Zimbabwean meal with a main course called nyama. The family, like their society, is very patriarchal. Giselle's father had come to Zimbabwe for a visit and was with us at the time. He and the father of the host family were served their meal in a separate room, where our friend's mother brought them a basin in which to wash their hands. We, however, lined up at the sink to wash with the kids. It was an unusual experience, but what was most amazing to us

was that the head of the family wanted to arrange a marriage for Giselle or me. They still arrange marriages in Zimbabwe, with dowries of money or cattle being part of the negotiation. Thinking Giselle and I were sisters, the head of the family proposed to Giselle's father that one of us marry his son.

***“Doctors in Zimbabwe were interested in learning about the latest techniques available in the U.S. and in return gave us extremely helpful pointers on physical examination.”***

Over one weekend we drove to Nyanaga, a resort favored by the British because it resembles the Scottish highlands and is delightfully cool, mountainous place in which to relax. During our break, we planned our travel to include the spectacular Victoria Falls located on the border between Zimbabwe and Zambia. I will never forget white-water rafting in the gorge below the Falls. It was very exciting, and not at all for the faint-hearted!

We ended our break with a four-day canoe trip on the Zambezi River. Our group included two Americans, two British, two Swedes, and two Australians. We traveled 25 to 30 kilometers a day and camped at night, pitching our tents in sand and trying to avoid grassy spots so as not to attract elephants. But on our first night out the elephants came so close that our guide had to exercise some maneuvers to fend them off and no one slept very much. We could actually hear them munching the grass behind our tent. On the river we occasionally had visions of a hippopotamus capsizing our canoe and sending us into the crocodile-infested waters. All along the way we had marvelous views of hippos, waterbucks, baboons, and zebras, and many bird and plant species. It was truly a spectacular adventure.

Now I'm excited about the next phase of my training, but I also keep thinking back to my African experience, remembering that I've been in a country where, unlike the U.S., to get a CAT scan, an MRI, or even some antibiotics can be a real challenge. I've thought about this difference often,

wondering whether in certain ways people may actually be better off there than here, especially those patients in their 80s or 90s whom we keep admitting to the ICU with all its Swan Ganz catheters and respirators. I often think of Zimbabwe, where if a patient is that sick, she or he is taken home to be with family and made comfortable. I know these thoughts are by no means unique to me. Many experienced people in this country are giving increasing consideration to this issue in the context of ethics and societal cost, and many different viewpoints prevail. I keep coming back to them, however, because my trip to a totally different medical environment has vastly expanded my outlook. ■



*Dr. Johnson in Mfuwe, Zambia, when she was about to go on Safari.*



# NEW GOVERNORS ELECTED

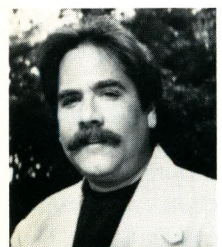
Six graduates have been elected to the Alumni Association's Board of Governors. They are profiled below in alphabetical order.



**Dennis J. Allendorff '70**, an attending pediatrician at St. Luke's-Roosevelt Medical Center, began his relationship to St. Luke's and Columbia University College of Physicians and Surgeons directly following his graduation from NYMC. He took a pediatric internship and residency at St. Luke's and two years

of residency at Columbia Presbyterian Medical Center. Faculty and hospital staff appointments followed, leading to his present appointment in 1980. Among the posts he has held at the medical center have been director of pediatric education, 1973-84, and director of in-patient services, 1978-84. He also served on the faculty council of the College of Physicians and Surgeons from 1980 to 1983.

Dr. Allendorff, who took his undergraduate degree at Georgetown University, is a diplomate of the American Board of Pediatrics. He was recertified in 1980 and again in 1987. He is also a fellow of the American Academy of Pediatrics. He and his wife, Jane Fletcher Allendorff, have four children, John, Eric, Nancy and Amanda. They live in Tenafly, NJ.



**Michael J. Bronson '76**, an orthopaedic surgeon practicing in New York City, is an associate attending on the orthopaedic surgery staff of Lenox Hill Hospital and an assistant orthopaedic surgeon at both the New York Orthopaedic Hospital of Columbia Presbyterian Medical Center and the Hospital for Joint Diseases

Orthopaedic Institute. He is also an instructor at Columbia University College of Physicians and Surgeons.

A graduate of Bronx High School of Science and New York University College of Arts and Sciences, Dr. Bronson spent the years 1976-81 in postgraduate training, starting with general and orthopaedic surgery residencies at Lenox Hill. He then did a residency at Children's Hospital Medical Center in Boston, followed by a Senior Annie C. Kane Fellowship in hip and knee surgery at New York Orthopaedic Hospital. He is a diplomate of the American Board of Orthopaedic Surgery and a fellow of the American College of Surgeons and the American Academy of Orthopaedic Surgeons.

Dr. Bronson and his wife Liliane R. Bronson, live in Scarsdale, NY, with their sons, Jeremy, Gregory and Wesley.



**Sherri A. Clayton '88** is associate program director of the Department of Medicine at St. Vincent's Medical Center in Bridgeport, CT, and assistant professor of medicine at NYMC. She received her bachelor's degree from the University of Notre Dame.

Following her graduation from NYMC, Dr. Clayton took her medical internship and three years of residency at Westchester County Medical Center/NYMC, serving as chief medical resident in her last year. She was medical house staff representative on the ethics committee and served on the Randy Polk Educational Committee. In 1989 she won the medical intern award for excellence in teaching and later received a further teaching award from the NYMC Class of '92. She was elected to AOA in 1991 and certified by the American Board of Internal Medicine in the same year. She lives in Greenwich, CT.



**Eileen (Lee) Dieck '86** is an internist, practicing in Mount Kisco, NY. An attending at Northern Westchester Hospital Center, she is also a clinical instructor in medicine at NYMC.

She took her bachelor's degree at St. Lawrence University. At NYMC she chaired Student Awareness Day, was president of the Student Senate in her fourth year, and received the high honor of the College's William Cullen Bryant Award, which recognizes "distinguished academic achievement and outstanding service to the College community and the student body."

Lee Dieck and her husband, ophthalmologist William Dieck '83, live in Mount Kisco, with their three children, Caitlin, Cameron, and Chelsea, ages 6, 5, and 2. Asked how she does it all Dr. Dieck says: "The challenge is really that of being a working mother. I enjoy the practice of medicine and my family. It all fits, day-by-day, and I wouldn't have it any other way."

During her residency in internal medicine at Westchester County Medical Center, Dr. Dieck worked with John McClung '75, associate professor of clinical medicine, on case review involving medical ethics, and she has a continuing interest in this subject.





**Joseph C. Iraci '77**, who practices surgery in New York City, is an associate surgeon at Lenox Hill Hospital, and surgical director of the hospital's intensive care unit. He is also clinical assistant professor of surgery at NYMC.

A graduate of Fordham University *summa cum laude*, he was elected to Phi Beta Kappa. Following his graduation from medical school, he served an internship and four years of surgical residencies at Lenox Hill, the fourth year as chief resident, and has since been continuously associated with the hospital, except for one year of further postgraduate study. In 1982 he held a fellowship in critical care medicine at the University of Pittsburgh. He then returned to Lenox Hill as assistant to the director of surgery and adjunct surgeon. He was named to his present post in the hospital's i.c.u. in 1985.

Board certified in both surgery and critical care medicine, Dr. Iraci is an assistant professor of surgery at New York Medical College. He is a peer reviewer for the journal, *Current Surgery*.

He and his wife, Joan Iraci, have three children, Joseph, Liza, and Nicholas.



**Marvin Weingarten '79** is a clinical associate professor of radiology at NYMC, director of computed tomography and associate attending radiologist at Good Samaritan Hospital in Suffern, NY, and a consulting radiologist at Helen Hayes Hospital in West Haverstraw, NY. He is a member

of a private practice group with offices in Monroe, NY and Pomona, NY.

A 1973 graduate of Brooklyn College with a B.S. in chemistry, Dr. Weingarten studied at Far Eastern University in Manila, Philippines, before transferring to NYMC in 1977. He took his first year of post graduate at Maimonides Medical Center in Brooklyn as a resident in internal medicine, followed by three years of residency in diagnostic radiology at NYMC, the last year as chief resident. He is board certified in radiology-diagnostic radiology.

Dr. Weingarten is married to classmate Susan Freeman '79, who is co-director of nuclear medicine at WCMC.

They have two daughters, Lori Ann and Lani Beth, and live in Chappaqua, NY. ■



## A Prize Winning Day For the Third Annual Golf Benefit

**T**he Alumni Association's annual golf benefits, sponsored by the Westchester Chapter, carry a doubly powerful drive. Each outing is a convivial day, and the day helps to raise funds for student needs.

From the time of registration on Thursday, May 14, 1993 for the third annual outing, held

at the Westchester Hills Golf Club, through the buffet luncheon, golf tournament, or tennis, to the cocktail reception, dinner, and awarding of prizes, the day was one of great sport and highly congenial socializing.

Heightening the jovial atmosphere was a wonderfully generous donation by Joseph Dello Russo '62 and his wife, Stephanie Dello Russo. As first prize for the raffle held in conjunction with the benefit, the Dello Russos gave a week's stay in their three-bedroom designer home at the Doral Resort in Miami, FL. The condominium is right on the golf course, with a swimming pool and jacuzzi, and ready access to both the Doral's golf courses and tennis courts.

**Chironian** talked with Jean Jones '51, who bought the winning ticket and placed her son David's name on it.

"It was what you might call a 'motherly act'," she said. I didn't tell him until I learned I'd won the first prize. Then I called his office—he is an environmental engineer—and left word about the prize. At first he thought the call was a joke, but he is an ardent golfer and was very pleased to hear that it was true," said Dr. Jones, who is retired from her pediatrics practice and lives with her husband, Harry Jones, in Orange, CT.

Now Jean and Harry Jones, David and David's wife, Carol, look forward to enjoying a stay in the home of two warmly generous people. Adding to the fun is the discovery by the host and guest families that David Jones is a Lehigh University graduate and the Dello Russo's son Jeffrey is a sophomore at the same university.

The second raffle prize, an always welcome VCR, was won by Sidney Sacks, and there were prizes for winners in the tournament, plus door prizes and favors in abundance.

The Fourth Annual Golf Benefit will be held in the Spring of 1994. Again, all are welcome to participate — alumni/ae, family, friends — to play golf, play tennis, or just join the group for cocktails and dinner. Watch your mail for the reservation form, and bear in mind that your involvement in this event supports student needs and is much appreciated. ■



# Class Notes

The symbol **REUNION** signifies a five-year "milestone" class for which a reunion will be held Saturday, May 21 at The Alumni Center.

## 1930

**LOUIS HOFFNER**, now retired, continues to live in Lawrence, NY. He reports that his sons Burton '61 and Herbert are ophthalmologists in Cedarhurst, NY. His grandson Richard Hoffner is in his last year at Boston University School of Medicine, "planning to carry on the family tradition."

## 1937

**DAVID DRAGUTSKY** retired in 1992 after practicing for over 51 years.

## 1943

**JAMES McNULTY** has been commissioner of the California Medical Manpower Planning Commission since 1991. He lives in Rancho Santa Fe, CA, and is semiretired.

## 50-Year REUNION

## 1944

**ELEANOR DiPAOLI** reports that she continues to practice gynecology, and endocrinology for women, and is seeing more older women now that she has given up obstetrics. Her husband, Dr. Richard Belluci, former NYMC chairman of otolaryngology, is semi-retired and is "just fine." Their daughter **ELEANOR BELLUCCI** '82 practices ob/gyn.

## 1945

**ROBERT MAXFIELD**, who has been retired for two years, writes that he now spends summers in New Hampshire and winters in Naples, FL. He adds: "Health permitting, promise to attend the 50-Year reunion of the class in 1995."

**JOHN O'BRIEN** is vice president for medical affairs at Christ Hospital in Jersey City, NJ.

**ELIZABETH SHANKS**, who is a board certified psychiatrist, has retired. Presently president of the Society of Medical Jurisprudence, she lives in Riverdale, NY.

## 45-Year REUNION

## 1949

**BURTON FEINERMAN**, is president of Kids Pediatrics, Inc., a company that owns multiple pediatric clinics that are open seven days a week, with sick child day care centers and ambulatory emergency care for acute illnesses.

**LEO NOLAN** gave up practice of ob/gyn in 1983 and entered the surgical laser field. He taught courses in the U.S. and also in Australia and New Zealand. Currently he is director of medical affairs for Ethicon Endo-Surgery.

## 1953

**ROBERT BRENNAN**, who retired in 1992, wrote that he has eight children and sixteen grandchildren, all fine. Dr. Brennan and classmates who attended the five-year reunions held at the Alumni Center on May 23rd are pictured in the article entitled "The Bonds of Friendship Renewed."

**FRANCIS KANE, JR.** reports that he has been appointed professor of psychiatry at Emory University School of Medicine. Frank's note includes word of several of his classmates: "**MARTIN KEELER** has recently retired as professor of psychiatry at Baylor College of Medicine. I understand that he may pursue a career in botany. Last year I saw **JAY SACKLER**, who was professor of radiology at Texas Tech University School of Medicine in Lubbock, where my daughter Cecilia took her medical school training. I understand Jay has now left Texas Tech and moved to Colorado. We recently enjoyed the hospitality of Gerry and **JACK WALSH** at Dataw Island near Beaufort, S.C. Jack has retired from the practice of urology. Less happily, we also saw Nat and **RIP MAHON** before Rip passed away recently from a disabling neurological illness."

## 1955

**EDWARD CARSKY**, who is clinical professor of radiology at St. Joseph's Hospital in Syracuse, NY, represented NYMC at the inauguration of Dr. Gregory Eastwood as president of SUNY Health Science Center at Syracuse on September 10, 1993.

## 1956

**ARTHUR HICKEY**, who lives in Marion, MA, has retired.

## 1957

**CHARLES ASWAD** has accepted appointment as executive vice president of the Medical Society of the State of New York (MSSNY) effective October 15. Headquarters of MSSNY are in Lake Success, NY. Charles and Joanne have taken an apartment in New York City, but are keeping their family home in Binghamton. On assuming the post Charles pointed to the radical changes medicine will undergo in the next five years, challenging MSSNY with helping physician members take advantage of the changing environment of medical services. "Physicians will call for more support from their medical societies and MSSNY must provide that support, he said." Charles was profiled in the Fall 1992 **Chironian** as Alumni Medalist of the year.

## 35-Year REUNION

## 1959

**DAVID MILLER**, an associate professor at Harvard Medical School, reports on a survey of 14,000 area physicians conducted by *Boston Magazine* to learn the top 50 area physicians preferred by their peers. He writes that he was "one of the four ophthalmologists to make the favored group."

**PAUL STAVROKALES** retired from pediatric practice in January 1992 and is "enjoying the good life with his lovely wife of two years, Jean Christ Stavrokales, who had also lost her spouse. He adds: "Involved in tennis, travel, church activities, and administering the Aegean Institute, a nonprofit six-week Greek studies program at college level. Eagerly await graduation of two teen-agers from high school."

## 1960

**JAMES RUBIA**, who is chief of allergy/immunology at New York's Beth Israel Medical Center, was elected president of the B.I.M.C. medical board for 1993.

## 1961

**VINCENT SMITH** has been in family practice (DABFP) in his home town of Palmyra, NY, for 25 years. He writes that he is a bachelor and has four whippet show dogs.



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1962

**VICTOR GRANN**, an oncologist who directs the Cancer Center at Stamford Hospital in Connecticut, writes that his daughter Alicia is completing her second year of residency in medicine at Beth Israel Hospital in Boston.

**MARVIN ROTH** retired from ob/gyn in 1991 and is "enjoying sunny Florida. Married to my one and only Nancy for 35 years." They have three daughters and were expecting their third grandchild in July 1993.

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1966

**TONY COHEN** is medical director of Medi-Consultants, a medical electronics manufacturing company, and medical director of the Ambulatory Geriatric Department of Wayne General Hospital in Paterson, NJ.

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1967

**C. GENE CAYTEN** was honored at the NYMC Medical Sciences Library's "Author Recognition Celebration" for his book published in 1992, *Principles and Practices of Emergency Medicine*.

**JUDITH FIEDLER TOPILOW** and **ARTHUR TOPILOW** have celebrated their 25th wedding anniversary. They reported that Justin, number one son, 21, just completed his junior year at Yale and Evan just finished his second year at Johnson and Wales in Providence.

---

1970

**FRED FENSTERER** has been in solo practice of internal medicine in Glendale, NY, since 1976. He was elected to fellowship in the American College of Physicians in 1993 and assumed the presidency of the Medical Society of the County of Queens (NY) in May.

**THOMAS GRABOYS**, who was profiled in the Spring 1993 issue of *Chironian*, writes that he "has left the area of arrhythmias and is concentrating his research efforts on factors contributing to the exponential growth of cardiovascular procedures."

**WILLIAM LIPSKY** reports from Houston, TX, that his "eldest son, Ari, is a junior at MIT and doing exceptionally well, daughter Shira is off to Israel for a year of study between high school and college. The younger children, Eliana and Ilon, are just enjoying being young. As the rest of you are doing I'm working harder for less. Nevertheless medicine is the last honorable profession."

**JON SEWARD** has joined the pediatric medicine staff of the Kaiser Permanente medical office in White Plains, NY. He has been in private pediatric practice since 1977, most of that time in Vermont, with three years in California. He and his wife have six children and one grandchild.

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1972

**ALEXANDER BRUCKER** received the Albrecht von Graefe Award for distinguished contributions to ophthalmology from the American Society of Contemporary Ophthalmology in June during the society's annual meeting in Chicago. He lectured at the meeting on "Indocyanine Green Angiography," a new method of imaging the choroid and retina of the eye using computer and photographic instrumentation. He is chief of the retina and vitreous service of the Department of Ophthalmology at the U. of Pennsylvania School of Medicine at Scheie Eye Institute, Philadelphia.

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**20-Year  
REUNION**

1974

**MICHAEL LIEBERMAN** has been in the private practice of ophthalmology in Farmingdale, NY, for 15 years. He is a member of the Long Island Ophthalmologic Society and lives in North Bellmore, LI, with his wife, Andrea, and three daughters, Shira, Shelly, and Devorah.

---

1976

**MARY ALICE O'DOWD** writes; "My son, Michael, whose birth was chronicled in the class yearbook, is starting college. We're older than we think."

**JEFFREY KOPELSON** opened a new office in Brewster, NY, in April 1993. He is in family practice.

---

1977

**HERMAN EPSTEIN** was recently named chairman of the Department of Ob/Gyn at Coral Springs Medical Center in Florida.

**WILLIAM RUSSELL** has relocated to San Luis Obispo, CA, where he will become a partner in Radiology Associates of S.L.O. in February 1994.

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1978

**ROBERT COLLINS** is director of the Department of Radiology at Mercer Medical Center in Trenton, NJ, where he is also secretary of the medical staff.

---

**15-Year  
REUNION**

1979

**ELLEN FRANKEL**, who practices dermatology in Cranston, RI, reported the purchase of a 1902 home at 145 Blackstone Boulevard, Providence, RI, 02906. She added, "It took a full year of work but the house has now been completely renovated."

**PASQUALE MONTESANO** announced the publication of *Imaging of the Spine in Clinical Practice*, with Alan Greenspan, M.D. The book is a reference for radiologists, spine surgeons, orthopedic surgeons, and neurosurgeons, and focuses on diagnostic imaging and the diagnosis of diseases and injuries of the spine. Dr. Montesano is in private practice in Sacramento, CA. While at UC Davis Medical Center in California he was co-director of the spine fellowship training program and was in charge of the adult problem spine clinic.

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1980

**SARINA DI STEFANO** practices ob/gyn in Tarrytown/Ossining. She has four children.

**JESSE GREENBLUM** has been joined in his practice of ob/gyn in Fernandina Beach, FL, by William McGrath, Jr. '83. Jesse is chief of staff at Nassau General Hospital for a second term.

**LIDIA POUSADA** is now chief of the division of geriatrics and gerontology at New Rochelle Hospital Medical Center, in Westchester County, NY.

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1982

**DANIEL SULLIVAN** practices internal medicine in Williamstown, MA. He and his wife, Robin, have two children, Kerry, 10, and Kim, 8. He volunteers as medical director of the Hospice of Northern Berkshire.



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**1983**

**WILLIAM MCGRATH** is in Fernandino Beach, FL. (see Jesse Greenblum '80)

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**1984**

**FRANK NAVETTA** has been in group practice of interventional cardiology in Tyler, TX, since July 1990. He and his wife, Mary, have two children, Andrew, 6, and Kevin, 2.

**JOHN PROCACCINO** and his wife, Liz, welcomed their first child, Andrew John, in December 1992. John practices colon and rectal surgery and general surgery at North Shore University Hospital on Long Island.

**ROBERT SHERMAN** is in private practice at Elmer Anesthesia and Pain Management P.C. in Elmer, NJ.

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**1985**

**AARON ROSE** is in private group practice of ophthalmology in New Haven, CT, professor and director of residency training at Yale University Department of Ophthalmology and Visual Science.

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**1986**

**KENNETH BLUMBERG** recently completed a fellowship in neuroradiology and is in private practice in Rockland County, NY. He writes that he has two children, Gillian, going on 5 and Gregg, now 1 year old.

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**1987**

**JAMES CREMINS** was spotted at the 1993 meeting of the American College of Gastroenterology held in New York in October.

**ANNE LESHER** is associate medical director of Star Enterprise, and attending physician in the Department of Emergency Medicine at the Medical Center of Delaware. She completed a two-year fellowship in hazardous materials at the Medical Center of Delaware and says that her areas of concentration are occupational medicine/hazardous materials.

**JAMES SALVATORE** is an anesthesiologist at St. Mary-Corwin Medical Center in Pueblo, CO. He and his wife welcomed their first child, Jacob Aaron, in August 1992.

**LOUIS VIZIOLI** wrote that he had finished a pulmonary and critical care fellowship at Montefiore Medical Center in New York and was joining a private practice group at White Plains (NY) Hospital.

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**1988**

**ROBERT YACYNYPCH** is completing his second year of an emergency medicine residency at Madigan Army Medical Center in Tacoma, WA.

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**1989**

**PAUL CORONA** reported that he had graduated from the family practice residency at USC in Los Angeles in June 1992, had married Denise Vallin-Corona the same month, and had recently moved to Laguna Miguel, CA. He was about to join a family practice group near Saddleback Hospital in Laguna Hills, CA.

**RICHARD RICCIARDI** writes that he is "pursuing a career in urology as a resident at Montefiore Medical Center/Albert Einstein College

**10-Year  
REUNION**

of Medicine. He has written several articles, most recently presented at the AUA meeting in San Antonio and published in the January '93 issue of the *Journal of Urology*.

**HENRY ROY III** is in solo practice of internal medicine in the Lakes Region of Maine. He is married to Mami Tsuji Roy, whom he met in Japan while there on a fourth year student exchange. They married in June 1990.

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**1990**

**ELIAS CHUA** has changed his residency program and is now at the University of Pennsylvania Hospital as a resident in anesthesiology.

**YOLANDRA JOHNSON** is at the University of Chicago Medical Center starting a fellowship in gastroenterology. Before completing an internal medicine residency at Yale last spring, she had a wonderful experience in Zimbabwe, about which she reports in Alumni/ae Notebook, this issue.

**WENDY KHENTIGAN** has been appointed chief resident of the inpatient psychiatric unit at USC San Diego Medical Center. She has also become involved with organized medicine and is an active participant in the California House Officer Medical Society. She was one of 12 residents selected to attend the California Medical Association's 1993 annual meeting, held in February and the AMA Resident Physician Section meeting in June.

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**1991**

**ANTHONY BOUTIN** sends the happy word that he and **ROBIN HILL** '92 were married on May 1, 1993.

**DAVID JANFAZA** has been appointed chief resident in the Department of Medicine at Mount Sinai Medical Center in New York for the year 1994-95.

**ELIZABETH WILDER** wrote in mid-March: "Chris and I are enjoying the Boston area. We now have a wonderful dog who has loved the last few snow storms. We have plenty of space and would love to host anyone who wants to visit here." She gives her home address in Watertown, MA and notes the New England Medical Center in Boston as her office address.

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**1992**

**ROBIN HILL** married **ANTHONY BOUTIN** '91. (see above)

**MARIA NAVARRO** wrote in the spring of 1993 that she was married and expected a baby in September. She is a pathology resident at SUNY Stony Brook on Long Island.

**ERIC PETERS** started a residency in anatomic pathology/clinical pathology at New York Hospital on July 1, 1993.

**RANDYE RESNICK** and **MICHAEL BERNOT** '93 were married last year. Randy is in her second year of residency at New York Hospital. Michael started a residency in psychiatry at Long Island Jewish Medical Center in July.

**DOUGLAS WHIPPLE** wrote: "Here it is exactly one year after graduation. What an amazing year it has been. I've just completed my internship in Hawaii and am now moving to Connecticut to complete my residency training at the University of Connecticut. I also got engaged on New Year's Eve." He signs off: "Aloha for now."

**5-Year  
REUNION**



# Annual Fund Honor Roll

Following are the names of alumni and alumnae who contributed to the Annual Fund Campaign for the fiscal year July 1, 1992 – June 30, 1993.

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## Calendar of Events

DATE	EVENT
Friday January 21, 1994	Staten Island Chapter Meeting Staten Inn, Staten Island
January 30 February 5, 1994	Winter CME Seminar St. Maarten
Friday February 25, 1994	American Academy of Orthopaedic Surgeons Alumni Reception—New Orleans
Friday April 22, 1994	American College of Physicians Alumni Reception—Miami
Saturday April 23, 1994	Southern Florida Chapter Meeting
Sunday April 24, 1994	Ft. Lauderdale/Boca Raton Area Gathering
Spring 1994	Golf Outing and Dinner Sponsored by the Westchester Chapter
<b>May 21-24, 1994</b>	<b>ALUMNI/AE REUNION WEEKEND</b>
Saturday May 21, 1994	CME Seminar sponsored by Class of '69 Valhalla campus—9 am
	Alumni Association Annual Meeting Alumni Center—12 noon
	Luncheon for Milestone Reunion Classes of 1934, 1939, 1944, 1949, 1954, 1959, 1964, 1969, 1974, 1979, 1984, 1989 Alumni Center—1-4 pm
	Class of 1969 25-Year Reunion Dinner Roof of Terence Cardinal Cooke Health Care Center (formerly "Flower")—7 pm
Sunday May 22, 1994	Annual Alumni Banquet The Plaza Hotel—7 pm
Tuesday May 24, 1994	NYMC Commencement—4 pm Golden Anniversary of the Class of 1944 Carnegie Hall